Dear both, 9/7/99

Many thanks to Hanh-Trang for the drug information and for taking all that time! Three of the drug names I do not recognize so I suppose they have been discontinued. I keep giving the family doctor lists of those I am now taking and asking if there should be any changes but never get any meaningful response. Nor do I get any when I ask if the deficiences in the monthly dialysis tests are indicative of anything that can be corrected by medications.

The one yesterday is different than the ones they've been giving me. Much more inclusive. Copy enclosed. But none of this has ever been explained to me. Clay says that some of what he saw on the shorter version can be indicative of liver failure. I raised that with the family doctor and got no answer other than not necessarily. I think he may be a bit annoyed that the nephrologist has cut him out on all testing, etc. Before the dialysis the cardiologist, the family doctor, the nephrologist and the lung specialist all got copies of the extra bi-weekly tests but once I was in dialysis that was preempted and the nephrologist gives copies to none of the others.

There is not much I can do about him because he is also the medical director of the dialysis works but I think I'll inquire about another kidney specialist in the area just in case. This one impressed me enormously until he decided, when I was hospitalized with pneumonia, to put me in dialysis without discussing it with me. Just a week earlier while my test results remained borderline, he noted steady improvement in them and instead of seeing him in 30 days he then told me 90 days. Of course he could have been concerned about my weakened condition but if I'd had any choice, absent the assurance that it was a vital necessity then I'd have delayed it and seen how the tests came out. Over the problems with Lil now.

Today she has another cat scan to see if any blood clots have returned. For me and my still convoluted hours, late today, 3:30 pm. She is trying to do a bit more but she still spends most of her time asleep, in bed or in her chair, and she has no real interests of any kind. I've gotten us started in the county health department's mental health program and I hope that can help her straighten her head out and get some interests going. Clay, who has a remarkable genius for feeling what has happened, is getting her a computer. Wonderful of him and I hope it gets her interested. Now back to work, with many thanks and best to you all,

Harold